

City of Farmers Branch Sustainability Committee

November 14, 2017

What is Sustainability?

SUSTAINABILITY

Social

Improving the quality of life of residents as well as the community and society at large.

Environmental

Reducing impacts on climate change, water use, and the natural environment.

Financial

Positively impacting the finances of the City while taking into account environmental and social impacts.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Formed in May 2016

- Tasked with providing recommendations of projects and anticipated financial capital investment to the City Council that are necessary to promote affordable, efficient, reliable and safe energy systems, and to provide clean, green, safe and accessible open space for residents and visitors.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Made up of 9 Members and 1 Ex-Officio serving for two or three year terms:
 - **David Griggs** (Vice Chair)
 - **Craig Belanger**
 - **Jonas Greene**
 - **Amy Rogers**
 - **Micah Harleaux** (Secretary)
 - **Charles Lawless**
 - **Patricia Link**
 - **Vanessa Serrano**
 - **Jeffrey Prutz**
 - **Carrie Schweitzer** (Ex-Officio)
 - **Shane Davis** (Staff Liaison)

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Recycling and Waste Reduction

- Recycling Success!
- Distributing 30 GAL Bins
- HHW Event
- Bulk and Brush?

Education

- Keep Farmers Branch Beautiful
- Participation in Community Events

Resource Conservation

- Energy Audit
- Working with Water Conservation Fund
- Exploring Renewable Energy Goals

Recycling and Waste Reduction Subcommittee - Priorities

Recycling Education Campaign

- Start City wide **free cycle and community garage sales events**
- **Create a Web Tool** to help residents easily identify Recyclable Materials
- **Regularly communicate** City Recycling Metrics

Bulk Brush

- Perform an analysis of **alternatives to landfill disposal for bulk brush**

Hazardous Waste Disposal

- **Expand education** on current programs and initiatives
- Research and identify how the City could **expand current services**

Recycling and Waste Reduction Subcommittee - Activities

- HHW Event participation – 156 residents
 - How do we reach more residents and increase participation?
- Recycling - Tons in the 1st year
- Brush diversion – brush diversion has started.
 - Long term – mulching/composting site at landfill

Education Subcommittee - Priority Topics

Keep Texas Beautiful

- **KTB provides funds** to affiliates to create and expand local community improvement programs
- **Free supplies, signs and volunteer incentives for cleanup events** such as the Great American Cleanup, Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off and Keep Texas Waterways Clean programs
- **Awards and Recognition**

Communication Planning for Sustainability Efforts

- Work with **the city's Director of Communication to identify current channels used to inform and educate residents**
- Create a **landing page/site for communicating Farmers Branch's sustainability efforts**

Sustainability Ambassadors

- **Partnering with our residents** that are passionate about sustainability and equipping them to educate others
- Leverage outdoor, community, and City sponsored events to **expand the reach of sustainability efforts**

Education Subcommittee - Activities Topics

- Keep Farmers Branch Beautiful
 - Where we are in the registration process
 - Participated in City events
 - Distributed door hangars for 35 gallon carts
 - Collected patron surveys at HHW event

Resource Conservation Subcommittee - Priority Topics

Energy and Water Audits

- **Establish a baseline** for City electricity, water, and fuel use
- **Identify opportunities to save utilities cost** through efficiency improvements
- **Create a Water Reduction plan** for City facilities

Residential and Small Business Education/Awareness

- **Provide education materials and tools to home owners and small businesses** within the City to save on their utility costs
- **Identify and provide easy access to tools, processes and systems** for residents and small businesses

Explore Renewable Energy

- **Perform analysis** of Cities current energy sourcing agreements
- Identify opportunities to **reduce cost and increase the amount of renewable energy**

Resource Conservation Subcommittee - Activities

- Clean Water Fund meeting – exploring ways for residents to reduce water consumption
 - Top Five Tips:
 1. Reduce outdoor watering
 2. Check toilets to verify they are working properly
 3. When doing laundry or dishes always wash with full loads
 4. Find and fix any leaky faucets
 5. Be water wise when bathing
- Energy Audit
 - Preliminary energy audit of City facilities based on square foot area of buildings and 1 year of electrical usage

Ways to Reduce Water Consumption

1. Toilet replacement program
2. Showerhead replacement program
3. Provide water conservation kits at low cost
4. Public education
5. Rain barrels
6. Rebate program for water savings devices
7. Residential lawn watering policy

Energy Audit

- Discuss the facilities audited and associated HVAC and lighting equipment
- Discuss possible savings based on preliminary study
- Discuss performance contracting

QUESTIONS?